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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/778,996	02/07/2001	Konstantinos I. Papathomas	END920000065US1	8725

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02/11/2004

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EXAMINER

KEEHAN, CHRISTOPHER M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1712

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/778,996

Applicant(s)

PAPATHOMAS, KONSTANTINOS
I.

Examiner

Christopher M. Keehan

Art Unit

1712

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 07 January 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____

3. ☒ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): See Continuation Sheet.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☐ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☒ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____

Claim(s) objected to: _____

Claim(s) rejected: 1,5,6,8,14,18-29,31,37,39,41,43,44 and 46-50.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
10. ☐ Other: _____

DAVID J. BUTTNER
PRIMARY EXAMINER*David Buttner*

Continuation of 3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): 103 rejection of claim 1,5,6, 44, and 48 over Day et al. (6,444,407 B1).

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: it appears the amount of flexibilizer claimed by applicant can be attained by Christie et al. Applicant has calculated the amount of flexibilizer to meet the instant claims that need be present in Christie et al. to be 2.5%, and Christie et al. disclose about 2phr (1.6%) by weight of flexibilizer. In addition, Christie et al. disclose about 25% to about 80% by weight of the binder, and about 20% to about 75% by weight of the filler. Given these amounts, and that "about" is disclosed with each range, it appears that about "2phr" in reference suggests 2.5 phr, which would meet applicant's claims according to applicant's calculations. See In re Ayers 69 USPQ 109 and MPEP 2173.05 (b) concerning "about". In addition, applicant has shown no comparative results showing that Christie et al. at 2.5% by weight is detrimental. Regarding Arldt et al., as set forth in the previous office action, Applicant has shown no criticality as to the claimed amount of flexibilizer.